

SIERRA STAR

Updated: Friday, March 2, 2007

Celebrating
50 Years
In the Mountains

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CURRENT WEATHER

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COLUMNISTS

Paul Henry Abram

Ronna Adler

Judith Allender

Dr. Bill Atwood

Dwight Barnes

Daniel Blodgett MD

Cathie Campbell

Tom Elias

Jim Flanagan

Elizabeth Gabriel

Grace Grady-Barnes

Bryan Greeson

Mike Hackworth

Al Joyal

Tony Krizan

Ed Lyons

David Richards

Earlene Ward

EDUCATION

Ship of fools

Yosemite High School seniors take the stage for 'Fools'

By **Elizabeth Gabriel**

(Updated Friday, March 2, 2007, 3:24 PM)

There's a lot of fooling around this weekend at Yosemite High School.

"Fools" is the senior project for theater students and they love it.

"It's funny, it's entertaining," said Dustin Maddox, who, as Leon, has a key role in the Neil Simon play based on a Russian folk tale.

"It has lots of stupid jokes and nuances," said Pam Cottington, who is Sophia, a rather stupid girl who has just learned how to sit down when the play begins.

Sophia lives in a village of idiots and anyone who stays there for 24 hours joins them. All the townspeople are under a 200-year-old curse that, in the way of folk tales, can be broken only by a propitious marriage. Leon, newly arrived, and Sophia might be the curse-breakers, but they have to go through some very trying (and funny) times first. And what happens ever-after is delicious.

A senior project is a graduation requirement, and it was natural that five theater students decided to put on a play then give the money to charity. In this case, profits from the production will go to the Squirrel Cage Theatre in North Fork.

Laura Bogy, Burkelee Woods, Michael Barnes, Maddox and Cottington are the drivers behind the show. They chose the material and were responsible for everything that brings words off the page and into the theater.

"It gives us a chance to try our hands at directing, at producing," among other tasks, Cottington said.

The theater students have one more main production this year ("Wild Oats" will be the spring play) and then it's goodbye to YHS and theater teacher and fine arts department chairman Lars Thorson.

"This is the best class," Cottington said. "We're like our own little family."



In "Fools" (from left) Michael Barnes, Dustin Maddox and Nicole Rogers seek information to end a curse.
Photo by Elizabeth Gabriel

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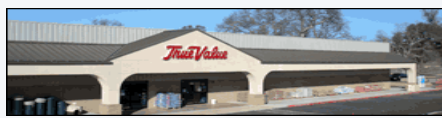
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